

Remarks

Claims 1-38 were pending. Claims 1, 9, 15, 24, 30, and 36 have been amended while claims 6-8, 12-14, 18-23, 27-29, 33-35, and 37-38 have been cancelled. Applicants assert that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, 31, and 36-38 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable either over Laybourn (US Pat 6,480,710) in view of various other references or, for claims 15 and 30, in view of Raith (US Pat 6,493,547) in view of various other references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections relative to the claims as currently pending.

Each of the claims now includes recitations to providing an alert to the wireless device during use of the communications service in a communications session once the account balance drops below a recharge threshold and the amount of time from one alert to the next decreases as the account balance continued to drop. As a representative example, claim 1 recites a prepaid application module for initializing and updating the prepaid accounts, for determining a current account balance while the prepaid communications service is in use by a subscriber, for comparing the current account balance to a recharge threshold, and for generating alerts once the current account balance falls below the recharge threshold while the prepaid communications service is in use, and wherein the prepaid application module decreases an amount of time from one alert to a subsequent alert as the current account balance continues to fall during use of the prepaid communications service.

None of the cited references disclose such recitations. In particular, none of the cited references disclose sending alerts to the wireless device during a communications session once the account balance falls below the recharge threshold where the amount of time between the alerts decreases as the account balance falls. This is significant in that if a user receives a first alert once the balance falls below the recharge threshold, the user may continue with the communications session thinking that there is adequate time remaining. However, as the account balance continues to drop, by decreasing the amount

of time between the alerts being provided to the user, the sense of urgency associated with the account balance falling to zero is conveyed to the user. The cited references fail to provide such a feature. Accordingly, the pending claims are allowable over the cited references, singly or in combination, for at least these reasons.

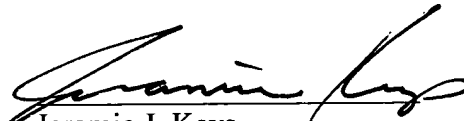
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-5, 9-11, 15-17, 24-26, 30-32, and 36 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees beyond the fee for continued examination are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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